



Case Study: “Predisposed” by Robert Gross, DO

Introduction

The Insurance industry recently published a report regarding automobile crash statistics when senior citizen drivers are at the wheel. Their findings suggest that the elderly are not involved in more accidents in the population as a whole but is more susceptible to injury. The report further notes that the injuries sustained by the elderly in an automobile tend to be more severe and take the lives of the elderly victim more frequently.

Case Study

A 79 year-old man was the restrained driver of an automobile that was struck by a truck on the passenger side door. The passenger in the vehicle died in the crash. Upon arrival, the paramedics found the man conscious but trapped in the wreckage. After extricating the patient from the wreckage he was immobilized on a backboard and a cervical collar. Two large bore IV’s were started and supplemental oxygen was given. The patient was transported to the Level 1 Trauma Center at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. During transport the man became lethargic and was difficult to arouse.

Upon arrival he was evaluated by the Trauma Team. His vital signs included a pulse of 110, BP 130/70 and a respiration rate of 20. The primary survey was unremarkable, however, his mental status deteriorated to a GCS of <8 so he was intubated.

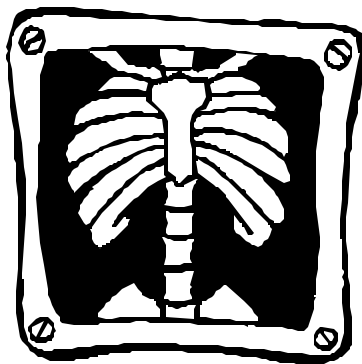


Figure 1.

A CT scan of the head revealed a large subdural hematoma and intercerebral contusions. The AP pelvic and cervical spine films were negative. The thoracic hemothorax was not drained due to its small size.

In conjunction with neurosurgery, it was decided to manage the patient non-operatively. Subsequently he was transferred to the Intensive Care Unit. ICU care was directed mainly towards his head injury including sedation, normalization of ventilary parameters, Mannitol and ICP monitoring.

TRAUMA SURGEONS:

- C. Gabriel Alperovich, MD, FACS
- James Cole, Jr., DO, FACS
- Robert Gross, DO
- Jeffrey Rosen, MD, FACS
- Chris Salvino, MD, MS, MT, FACS
- Joseph Vitello, MD, FACS

TRAUMA NURSE CLINICIANS:

- Sheryl Crandall, RN, BA, TNS
- Jeanne Gador, RN, BSN, TNS

TRAUMA PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

- Debra Perrin-Davis, RN, BSN, TNS

TRAUMA/EMSS/EMERGENCY MEDICINE:

- William Iversen, MS, EMT-P

QA COORDINATOR

- Beth Beranek, RN, BSN, TNS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

- Patricia Mohorn

MEDIA/PR COORDINATOR

- Christy Stanley, BA

TRAUMA EDUCATION:

- Mary Gramley, PhD, RN, CEN

HOSPITAL COURSE

The hospital course for the man was prolonged. The man need an extended time to regain neurological function lost in the injury. The man required prolonged mechanical ventilation and a subsequent Tracheotomy. A Feeding tube was placed in his stomach so that he could be given nutrition. The man was discharged to a rehabilitation facility where he could be trained to re-learn skills that he lost in the auto accident.

DISCUSSION

The elderly motor vehicle accident victim is at increased risk of significant injury. The elderly have a smaller physiologic reserve and often are unable to withstand injuries that their younger counter parts are able to. They often “fall off the cliff” and require medical support to maintain their airway, breathing and circulation to a greater degree while they recover from their injuries. As the population as a whole ages greater attention to the unique needs of critically injured elderly patients are a point of focus at Level One Trauma centers such as Good Samaritan Hospital.

Welcome!

The Level 1 Trauma Service at Good Samaritan Hospital pleased to welcome James P. Cole, Jr., D.O., as a member of our trauma surgeon staff.

Dr. Cole is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, and the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed an internship at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA, and a Residency in General Surgery at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, TX. Dr. Cole also completed a trauma fellowship at Ben Taub General Hospital, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX.

Dr. Cole is a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, and a Diplomate of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. He is also a an instructor for the Advanced Trauma Life Support course for doctors. Dr. Cole is a member of the American Medical Association, the American College of Surgeons, and the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons.

Dr. Cole was active as a US Navy officer from 1991-2000. He has received a number of honors and commendations. Dr. Cole has participated in a number of research projects, has published several articles in peer reviewed medical journals, and given presentations to physicians at a number of venues.

Good Samaritan Hospital is pleased to welcome Dr. Cole as a valuable member of our Level 1 Trauma Surgery Team!

In The News



Dr. Chris Salvino, Co-Director of Trauma, was recently featured in the Daily Herald column: ‘My toughest case.’ This column features area physicians who have encountered challenging patients.



**One Phone Call
Is All It Takes...**

A transfer to our facility can be arranged by making one phone call, 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. By calling the direct line to our Emergency Department you will be connected with one of our Attending Trauma Surgeons, transportation will be arranged and you will be able to give your patient report to our staff. Your facility will also receive written follow-up information from the Trauma Surgeon and ,if requested, verbal follow-up is also available.

1.800.URGENT.5

September 12th
By Tom Bozzay, EMT-P

(Member of Good Samaritan Hospital's Specialty Transport Team)

It was the most amazing beauty I'd ever seen as the sun rose early September 12th. As we made the turn on I-39 something entirely different was revealed as the smoke rose from the sky over what was once New York City's Twin Towers. It was miles away and yet it was that moment that made me realize the magnitude of all that had happened less than 24 hours earlier. I had never been to New York and personally never wanted to go because of the "people." Ironically, it was these "people" that made me want to come. I have seen many horrible things done to others throughout my time of being a paramedic. In war torn countries, in the military or as a missionary through my church, but as we all can imagine, not even the most seasoned professional has seen or heard such a thing like September 11th. The smell still haunts me. The airplane fuel, paper, concrete, death; mixed together with bravery, honor, courage and commitment. I know that there are very few absolutes now a day in our culture of relativity, but seeing all that I did, I know this for sure: In the words of my Lord Jesus "No greater love than this: that a man lay down His life for His friends."

I spent four days there. I never slept and I'm not sure if I've slept since, but I know the stories that I could tell would make you crumble. I witnessed tragedy and triumph of the human soul. I haven't spoken much of those days, but here is a story that I will share with you now.

I found a man who had been crushed by the two heavy beams in which I'm standing on in the picture. I found him holding a picture of his family and nothing else. In the moment before his death he held no money or car keys, he held onto his family. We were unable to pull him out because the beams were so heavy, tons and tons atop of him, but I took the picture he held and the parts that we could salvage and placed them in a body bag. I can't wait to tell his family what I found; that he was thinking of them as all of America was thinking of him.



SAVE THE DATE!!



Circle of Trauma 2002
April 18-19, 2002
Oak Brook Marriott

Look for our brochure after the first of the year.
To be added to our mailing list please call 630.275.2544.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2002

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuing education, we have offerings applicable to all health care providers caring for trauma patients.

Contact our Outreach Office at 630.275.2544.

Trauma Grand Rounds

- Open to all health care providers interested in Trauma/Critical Care.
- Free event, which includes dinner, case presentations, and a formal lecture by a nationally recognized speaker.
- CME (2.0) and CE (2.4) accredited.
- Audience participation encouraged in case presentations.

January 23, 2002
March 12, 2002
August 28, 2002
November 13, 2002

Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course (ENPC)

- Open to RN's with 6 months clinical experience in the Emergency Department setting.

February 5 & 12, 2002
June 10 & 17, 2002

Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC)

- Open to RN's with 6 months experience in providing emergency care to patients
- May be audited by LPN's and pre-hospital providers

February 25 & March 4, 2002
July 22 & 29, 2002

Surviving Neonatal Resuscitation

- For surgical, emergency, neonatal, pediatric nurses and transport team members.
- Neonatal management and assessment principals.
- Essential pathophysiology components of neonatal conditions.

April 2, 2002
October 1, 2002

In-House Trauma Service Rotation

- Open to active, participating paramedics.
- Opportunity to spend 12-24 hours with the Good Samaritan Hospital Trauma Team and witness trauma resuscitation, operative procedures, formal rounds and clinic.
- CE depending on your department or service.

THE LEVEL 1 TRAUMA CENTER

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Downers Grove, IL 60515

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Direct Transfer Line 1.800.URGENT.5

We're On The Web!
www.level1traumacenter.com